

lateral ones short-stalked, the terminal one 8–12 mm. long: spikes shorter than the leaves, simple or compound, interrupted, several- to many-flowered: calyx campanulate, about 7 mm. long, its teeth triangular-lanceolate, acute, tomentose, the longer ones nearly twice as long as the tube: corolla purple; standard nearly orbicular, short-clawed, about 8 mm. in diameter, about as long as the longer-clawed wing-petals: legume linear, brown-tomentulose, 4–4.5 cm. long, 5 mm. wide: seeds dull, obliquely oval, 3 mm. long.

Nueva Gerona, Isle of Pines, Cuba, *A. H. Curtiss*, 1904, *no.* 402.

Related to the Mexican *Galactia multiflora* Robinson.

N. L. BRITTON.

Panaeolus acidus sp. nov. — Pileus 1–3 cm. across, convex then expanded almost plane, smooth, slightly fleshy at the disk, very thin at the margin, brown with yellow tinge; gills adnate, 2–3 mm. broad, black with white edge; stem 8–10 cm. high, slender, hollow, equal, concolorous, 2–3 mm. thick; spores black, broadly ovate, pointed at each end.

Growing in a cluster on the bottom of a box in a cellar. The box contained a large bottle of acetic acid which had been broken and the contents emptied on the bottom of the box. The plant grew on this saturated wood.

In drying the color of the pileus became darker and the edges reflexed. In general appearance it resembles *Psilocybe foenicicii* (Pers.) Fr., but the black spores readily distinguish it from that species.

Type specimens are in the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburg, Pa.

D. R. SUMSTINE.

KITTANNING, PA.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1904

The meeting was held at the College of Pharmacy, Dr. H. H. Rusby in the chair, eleven members present.

Resignations were accepted from Miss Hannah S. Wingate and Mrs. Emily H. Terry, and from Messrs. Samuel Sloan, R. H. Lawrence and F. W. Kobbé.

The following were elected to membership: Miss Alice A. Knox, Barnard College, New York City; Miss Amelia R. Goodlatte, Passaic, N. J.; Miss Lenda T. Hanks, Girls' Technical High School, New York City; Miss Mary F. Barrett, 19 Elm Street, Bloomfield, N. J.; Mr. LeRoy Abrams, N. Y. Botanical Garden.

The first paper on the program was by Professor F. E. Lloyd, who spoke of the Desert Botanical Laboratory at Tucson, Arizona. He pointed out that there were four characteristic types of desert visible with great regularity from the car window westward from El Paso, as the train passed from mesa to hill country or *vice versa*. The character-plants of these four deserts, which are remarkably distinct and pure, are *Yucca*, *Ephedra*, mesquite, *Parkinsonia* and *Fouquieria*, in abundance. Professor Lloyd spoke in some detail of the vegetation in the vicinity of Tucson, illustrating his remarks with numerous excellent photographs, including several good pictures of *Cercus giganteus* in bloom and in fruit.

It was remarked that the plants with motile leaves, such as *Cassia*, *Acacia* and *Parkinsonia*, all faced the sun at sunrise, but did not follow its course during the day. *Fouquieria* was described in detail, attention being called to its short-lived primary leaves and curious spines which were cited as an example of direct metamorphosis, the rosettes of secondary leaves appearing in the axils of the latter. The primary object of Professor Lloyd's stay at the laboratory was the determination of the relation between stomatal action and transpiration. Numerous experiments were made, the results of which are to be reported in detail later.

The second paper, by Mr. George V. Nash, was on the vegetation of Inagua. Mr. Nash recently spent four weeks in collecting there. Inagua includes a large and a small island located some sixty miles northeast of Cuba, and with a total area of between five and six hundred square miles of mostly low land, the highest point reaching only 132 feet above the sea.

The flora is poor, embracing some 350 or 400 species, the relatively numerous cacti in the genera *Opuntia*, *Cactus*, *Melocactus*, and *Pilocereus* emphasizing the desert-like conditions pre-

vailing on the islands. Five plant areas were differentiated:— (1) that of the Strand; (2) the Scrub, where nearly all the endemic species of the islands have been found; (3) the White Sand or White Land as it is called locally, characterized by a species of *Coccothrinax*; (4) the Salinas, characterized by the shrub *Avicennia nitida* Jacq.; and (5) the Savannas, where *Conocarpus sericca* Forst. is the characteristic shrub and *Sporobolus virginicus* the common grass. In the numerous salt-holes is found the only fern of the islands, *Acrostichum aureum*.

Excellent photographs were exhibited showing the dwarfing effect of the sharp winds of the southern coast, where the vegetation, elsewhere six or eight feet tall, is reduced to a foot or two in height and becomes widely spreading.

One of the results of Mr. Nash's trip was the extension of the range of *Pseudophoenix Sargentii* about 350 miles to the southward; another the collection of a number of new species. Numerous photographs, and specimens from each of the plant areas, illustrated the speaker's various points.

EDWARD W. BERRY,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton and Dr. Marshall A. Howe, of the New York Botanical Garden, and Dr. C. F. Millspaugh of the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, are devoting several weeks to botanical explorations in the Bahamas.

The extensive botanical collections and library of Capt. John Donnell Smith, of Baltimore, have been presented by him to the Smithsonian Institution. All the old-world plants, and all of the American orchids, grasses, sedges and lower cryptogams, are already in Washington. The remainder of the American specimens, and all of the books, are to remain in Capt. Smith's possession as long as he may wish to retain them.